

REMARKS

Applicant cancels claims 1-2 without prejudice. Applicants' remarks, below, are preceded by quotations of the related comments of the Examiner, in small, boldface type.

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 3 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the drawings: figure 1, in page 6, characters "110-170" and "10", in page 6, and characters "180, 190, and 200", are not shown on the drawings. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

2. Applicant is required to submit a proposed drawing correction in reply to this Office action. However, formal correction of the noted defect may be deferred until after the examiner has considered the proposed drawing correction. Failure to timely submit the proposed drawing correction will result in the abandonment of the application.

Applicant submits proposed amended formal drawings with this response.

Specification

3. The work said or mean should not be used on the abstract.

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The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said", should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid sing phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Applicant submits a new abstract, which follows the guidelines outlined by the examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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6. Claims 1-9 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gough et al. (U.S. patent 6,360,221) in view of Birrell et al. (U.S. patent 6,185,551).

As to claim 1, Gough et al. teaches a method for integrating a written communication means with a document generation means (see column 8, lines 47-50) including the steps of:

a) typing a predefined string of characters, by a user, into a document (see figure 3, characters 40 and 42; figure 11, character 1100; and column 4, lines 64-67);

b) recognizing the predefined string with a computer algorithm that opens a messaging window (see figure 2 and column 5, lines 45-54);

c) entering a query from the user into the message window regarding unknown information intended to be located at the location of the predefined string (see figure 3);

d) sending the query to a third party (see figure 3; figure 9, character 906; and column 7, lines 35-38);

e) receiving a response to the query (see figure 5); and

g) transposing the predefined string with a portion of the response in the event that the response was accepted, not transposing the predefined string with a portion of the response in the event the response is rejected (see figure 5).

Gough et al. does not teach f) reading the response by the user for the purpose of the user accepting, or rejecting the response.

Birrell et al. teaches a web-based electronic mail service apparatus and method using full text and label indexing (see abstract), in which he teaches f) reading the response by the user for the purpose of the user accepting, or rejecting the response (see column 5, lines 58-65).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Gough et al., to include f) reading the response by the user for the purpose of the user accepting, or rejecting the response.

It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Gough et al. by the teaching of Birrell et al., because f) reading the response by the user for the purpose of the user accepting, or rejecting the response, would enable the user to select the messages that want to read and to

reject the messages that are not secure or from an unknown receiver, that prevent the computer from message with virus.

Applicant disagrees. Amended claim 3 requires “an active messaging module configured to recognize the predefined string of characters and, in response automatically open a messaging window on a display that permits [a] user to compose a message requesting the information that is to be inserted into the electronic document from one or more recipients”. Neither Gough nor Birrell discloses this limitation.

Gough discloses a system which enhances e-mail messages by including a self-executing program within an e-mail message (e.g., an animated Tinkerbell fairy that flutters across the bottom of an e-mail message). See, Gough, Abstract and col. 5, lns. 22-27. In some instances, the Gough system replaces text input by a sender in an e-mail message with the self-executing program. See, col. 7, lns. 28-33 (“the program ... replaces the word ‘love’ with a beating heart”). However, nowhere does Gough disclose or suggest opening a message window on a display in response to a recognition of a predefined string of characters that have been entered into an electronic document as required by independent claim 3. Thus, unlike the system disclosed in Gough, the system disclosed in claim 3 enables a user to compose a message to one or more recipients (e.g., persons) that requests the information that needs to be inserted into the electronic document.

Birrell discloses a web-based electronic mail service that permits a user access to his or her electronic mail account at any Internet connection point. See, col. 4, lns. 34-41. Nowhere does Birrell disclose or suggest a system in which a predefined string of characters is entered into an electronic document as a placeholder for information that is to be inserted into the document, much less opening a messaging window in response to recognizing a predefined character string.

Thus, because neither Gough nor Birrell disclose or suggest “an active messaging module configured to recognize the predefined string of characters and, in response automatically open a messaging window on a display that permits [a] user to compose a message requesting the information that is to be inserted into the electronic document from one or more recipients”, claim 3 and its dependent claims are patentable over the cited art.

Independent claims 8, and 11 include similar limitations that distinguish from Gough and Birrell. For example, independent claim 8 requires "recognizing the predefined string using a first computing device, and, in response to recognizing the predefined string, automatically assembling a query that includes a set of context data extracted from a portion of the electronic document disposed proximate to user-defined unknown". New independent claim 11 requires "recognizing the predefined string of characters in the electronic document and, in response to a recognition of the predefined string of characters, automatically opening a messaging window on a display that permits the user to request the information that is to be inserted into the electronic document from one or more recipients". None of these limitations are disclosed or suggested by either Gough or Birrell. Accordingly, independent claims 8, and 11, as well as their dependent claims, are also patentable over the cited art.

New independent claim 21 also includes limitations which are not disclosed or suggesting Gough or Birrell. For example, independent claim 21 requires, among other things, receiving a response back from one or more of the recipients of an electronic mail message and then automatically inserting the response into the electronic document. There is nothing in Gough or Birrell that suggest that either of their systems have this capability. Accordingly, new independent claim 21 and its dependents are patentable over the cited art.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

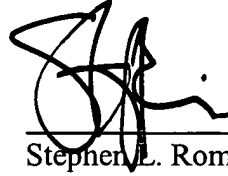
Enclosed is a \$200.00 check for excess claim fees and a \$60.00 check for a one month Petition for Extension of Time fee.

Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

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Attorney's Docket No.: 13605-004001

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Stephen L. Romine", written over a horizontal line.

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Figure 1
(Annotated)

